reduction in the share of fixed costs the freight rates are tapered down with the increase in distance. The degree of this taper needs review from time to time in the light of the pattern of traffic, changes in technology, cost of operation etc. I have, therefore, proposed a slight flattening of the taper which would given an additional revenue of Rs. 313 crores in the current year as also serve the purpose of rationalising the freight streucture on the Railways, In regard to parcel and luggage traffic, I propose to increase the rates by 15% which will yield an additional revenue of about Rs. 7 crores. These proposals will be effective from 1-12-1986.

The House will recall that in the Budget Estimates for the current year there was no increase in freight tariffs whatsoever. In respect of passenger traffic as much as 90% of the travelling public were not subjected to any increase. There was a marginal increase in respect of Second Class Mail and Express passengers and a larger increase in respect of upper class passengers. However, as about 98% of the passengers who travel by rail are from lower and middle income groups, I have decided that in order to avoid hardship to them, I would not make any increase whatsoever in passenger fares.

With the implementation of these proposals which will yield additional earnings of Rs. 320 crores in the current year, Railways will be left with an uncovered gap of Rs. 95 crores in the current year. A Memorandum is being circulated to the Hon'ble Members, containing details about the proposals. It will be our constant endeavour during the course of the year to bridge this gap to the maximum extent possible through further intensification of the traffic effort.

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1986— (TO AMEND ARTICLES 81, 82, ETC.)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN) : Now, Bills for introduction. Mr. Chitta Basu. Not here. Yes, Mr. Sharad Yadav.

श्री शरद यादव : (उत्तर प्रदेश) श्रीमन्, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि भारत के संविधान का और संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाये ।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री शरद यादव : श्रीमन्, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूं ।

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1986—(TO AMEND THE TENTH SCHEDULE).

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि भारत के संविधान का और संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाये ।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : श्रीमन्, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूं ।

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1984 TO AMEND ARTICLE 371)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN) : The hon. Minister will reply to the debate concluded in the last session.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : Sir, the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1984, moved by Shri V.M. Jadhav, M.P., seeks to substitute a new article for the existing article 371 of the Constitution. The main purpose

and purport of the Bill is to enable the President to make an order with respect to the State of Maharashtra or Gujarat to provide for the establishment of separate Development Boards for the development of these States, particularly the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions in Maharashtra and Saurashtra and Kutch regions in the Gujarat State. It also envisages the establishment of separate Development Boards in these States and these Boards with the object of quick development of the area.

Sir, so far as the object of the Bill is concerned, there is no dispute that the areas of Marathwada and areas in Vidarbha, Saurashtra and Kutch need proper attention in the matter of development—rather a more concerted attempt is needed to develop them. The people there do need more help as compared to other places in the matter of industry, agriculture—in all spheres. So when the hon. Member moved this Bill, everyone supported it, and I do subscribe to the view that so far as these areas are concerned, the problem of these areas need to be paid more attention. But then, Sir, the question is whether such an amendment in the Constitution is necessary, because there is already article 371 in the Constitution—371 (2)—which makes similar provision. And the question of development of the areas needs to be taken up with the State Government, because an integrated approach, a planned approach, will indeed be better instead of having separate Development Boards like these. I am told that the matter has been discussed in the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra State and they have made some recommendations. I would urge upon the hon. Members that we must take up this matter with Maharashtra Government so that they give more attention to these areas. We can really talk to the Chief Minister and other concerned Ministers, wherever these people are facing difficulty. The hon. Member comes from Maharashtra. I can assure him my full cooperation in this matter.

So, since the State of Maharashtra has already been approached and they are seized of the matter, I would request the hon. Member to kindly withdraw this Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra) : What about the creation of the Statutory Board which is already a constitutional obligation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, let me add a few words to what the Law Minister has already stated, as the Home Ministry is also concerned.

Sir, I am very happy that the mover of this Bill has brought to the notice of this House and to the people that there are undeveloped regions in Maharashtra and Gujarat also which deserve special attention and which deserve expeditious development. Therefore, Sir, I am grateful to Mr. Jadhav who has moved this Bill.

Sir, to see that the development of these regions is expedited, there is already a provision in the Constitution, Article 371 (2) of the Constitution reads like this.

"Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, the President may by order made with respect to the State of Maharashtra or Gujarat, provide for any special responsibility of the Governor for—

(a) the establishment of separate development boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra or, as the case may

[Shri Chintamani Panigrahi]

Saurashtra, Kutch and the rest of Gujarat, with the provision that a report on the working of each of these boards will be placed each year before the State Legislative Assembly;"

In view of this specific provision in the Constitution, I appeal to the honourable Member that there is no necessity now to amend it or add anything to the Constitution. A special provision is already there. The Central Government is very anxious about it. The Central Government and the Prime Minister want that any undeveloped region in any part of the country should be given special treatment. Many times the Prime Minister has focussed attention on this....

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: There is provision already but the question is it should be done, it should be implemented. Are you going to implement it or not? That is what I want to know.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : The purport of this Private Member's Bill is to enable the President to make an order with respect to the State of Maharashtra or Gujarat to provide for establishment of separate development boards for the development of their respective regions, in particular Vidarbha, Marathwada regions of the State of Maharashtra and Saurashtra, Kutch regions of the State of Gujarat. That is the object of the Bill. As I said, there are already provisions, enabling provisions, under Article 371 (2) of the Constitution for establishment of separate development boards for Vidarbha and Marathwada.....

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: It is a question of implementation.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I share your sentiments. I am coming to it, I am coming to the implementation part of it. I would urge the honourable Member may not, therefore, press it at this stage....

DR. BAPU KALDATE : (Maharashtra) : Why not ? The Maharashtra Legislature passed a unanimous resolution. We are asking for it since long. The question is: Why are you not implementing it?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I am coming to that. I just want to bring to your kind notice that we fully share your concern for speedy development of the backward regions of Vidarbha and Marathwada in Maharashtra and Saurashtra and Kutch in Gujarat. The views and sentiments expressed will be duly conveyed to the State Governments concerned and the Planning Commission so that stress is laid on the development of these backward regions, so that regional imbalances are removed. So far as implementation part of it is concerned, if you look at the chronological events as to how the Central Government is trying to persue this matter with the Maharashtra Government so that these boards are censtituted expeditiously, you will find that from 1984 till to-date the Central Government, the Home Ministry, is constantly pursuing with the Maharashtra Government.

DR. BAPU KALDATE : What is the Maharashtra Government doing?

SHRI CHINTRAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will you please bear with me ? I share your sentiments. I share what the honourable Law Minister has said. I also lay emphasis on it. I am only putting before you our efforts, we are constantly in touch with the Maharashtra Government to persuade them to set up these boards expeditiously...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : It is not the con-

cern of the Maharashtra Government. It has unanimously passed a resolution in the State Assembly. The Maharashtra Government submitted its resolution to the Union of India. Now the ball is in your Court.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I know it. I want to point out to you that we are in touch with the Maharashtra Government for expeditously setting up these boards.

DR. BAPU KALDATE : Did you ask them categorically to set up these boards ?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Yes, yes; that is a mandatory provision of the Constitution...

DR. BAPU KALDATE : But did you ask the Maharashtra Government categorically to set up these boards ? There is a confusion in what you are saying.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Please bear with me. Yesterday you were very good when you were in the Chair. (*Interruption*) For your information I am giving you the chronolgocial events from 9-8-1984 to 9-7-1986. The Home Minister has sent a reminder to the Governor requesting him for furnishing his comments, for his advice, in the matter in consultation with the Chief Minister, because the Chief Minister is concerned with it. Now, already a draft is prepared and is ready. We have again reminded, and an interim reply has been received in July, 1986 from the Governor of Maharashtra to the effect that he has already requested the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for a indication of the present view of the State Government with regard to the draft scheme already approved. The scheme is ready. The draft scheme has to be in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution. Somewhere if there is discrepancy, naturally your desires will not be fulfilled. Therefore, right earnestly we are pursuing the State Government. And both the Houses of your State have agreed. And we again also would request you that you again go back to Maharashtra, you request your Chief Minister.

DR. BAPU KALDATE : That we are doing.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : We appeal to you that you kindly tell him to approve the draft. Already a draft is there about what kind of development will take place. Let them approve the draft and send us. And if there is any delay on our part, then you can kindly tell us that there is delay.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Just a minute, Sir. This matter is there in Parliament since 1956. People of Vidarbha, Marathwada and rest of the parts of Maharashtra are constantly trying that as per the proviso in the Constitution you please appoint a statutory board. One year back my friend, Bapu Kaldate, has got a Private Member's Resolution. Some ten years back. Mr. Vasant Sathe, who is now the Union Minister, had brought the same type of Bill in the Lok Sabha. In addition to that, the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and the Maharashtra Legislative Council and the Chief Minister, including the Oppostion and the ruling party, passed a unanimous resolution. Now, the time has come that you must create this statutory board In fact, I appreciate your stand that you are constantly pursuing this matter with the Maharashtra Government. We know where the hitch is. But, can you give some time limit that within one month or two months or three months you will fulfil the provision which is made in the Constitution 30 years back ? I want a promise from you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN) : I think, the hon. Member is going to have an opportunity to reply. If he intervenes

[Shri G. Swaminathan]

now, he will not have anything to reply.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : With your kind permission, Sir. I will explain this point. Before I just reply to the points that you have raised, Sir, I was also going through how the Maharashtra Government is trying to see that these regions develop.

Sir, the Annual Plan of the Maharashtra State Government for the year 1986-87 is Rs. 2,110 crores. Of these, Rs. 1269.29 crores are earmarked for the State level schemes. Out of this amount, Rs. 310 crores and Rs. 246.9 crores had been allotted to the two regions, Vidarbha and Marathwada respectively. Of the remaining, about Rs. 712.30 crores is for the rest of Maharashtra. It may be mentioned that there are nine districts in Vidarbha and 7 in Marathwada and 14 in the rest of Maharashtra which include Bombay and other densely populated areas. Apart from the above, Maharashtra State Government has made a provision of Rs. 1500 crores for the purpose of removal of regional backlog as estimated by the fact-finding committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.M. Dandekar. Vidarbha and Marathwada have been allotted Rs. 533.32 crores and Rs. 391 crores respectively, and the remaining for the rest of Maharashtra. This means, more than 50 per cent of the total amount in the Seventh Plan will go to the two regions of Vidarbha and Marathwada. But in spite of that, as I said, I share your sentiments that we shall try to do our best to see that according to the mandatory provisions of our Constitution, the development boards should come in immediately. That we shall try to do.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : What is the time limit ?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV RAO JADHAV : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to all the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion on this non-official Bill. And I fully acknowledge them that they are also very conscious for the development of Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of the parts of Maharashtra which are economically most backward which are economically most...

3.00 P.M.

DR. BAPU KALDATE : Whom are you thanking?

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Those people who have participated in this debate. I am giving acknowledgment to them. You are also included in that.

Sir, the discussion on this subject has gone on for two days and today the Minister has replied. Though we are not fully satisfied, but we can find some ray of hope through his assurance that he is going to pursue this matter quickly with the Government of Maharashtra and after 30 years, at least, our people of Marathwada and Vidarbha can see some signs of relief by the appointment of statutory boards.

Sir, before coming to the subject, I would like to give some compliments to the people who have participated in this debate.

Sir, the first speaker was Mr. Kalp Nath Rai, a former Minister and a senior Member of this House, who has always raised his voice for the sake of the downtrodden people of this country and particularly those in the rural areas be they from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar or any other part of the country. Sir, he has categorically stated that poverty should be removed from rural India. He has also stated that Eastern U.P. is as backward as Marathwada and Vidarbha and

in the same way most of the parts of Bihar are very backward. He has also raised some pertinent issues about the distribution of waters of rivers and dams and he has said that agricultural potent ila must be looked after very properly so that the economic grievances from the large masses of the country can be removed.

Sir, another hon. Member who participated in the debate on this Bill was Dr. Bapu Kaldate from the Janata Party. He has raised so many points and I really give him my compliments for all that because in his vorations speech he has said that justice should be given immediately. He has said that if justice is delayed, it means that justice is denied. He has categorically stated like this. He has stated that it is a constitutional obligation and nothing is to be brought by this Bill in the Constitution and nothing is to be done by bringing this Private Member's Bill because a provision has already been made in the Constitution in 1956. Sir, considering the feelings regarding the backwardness and economic imbalances in the Marathwada, Vidarbha and the other parts of Maharashtra, the Government of India has taken the stand and it has made the constitutional provision to amend article 371 and by that amendment statutory boards should be created under the chairmanship of the Governor.

Sir, the same type of resolution has been brought by my friend Dr. Bapu Kaldate on the 26th November and 6th December, 1985. There was a very good discussion on this subject and I also spoke on that subject and even though there is no change in the Government's stand, I feel the Hon. Member from the opposition can speak about it.

Sir, he has stated that the reorganisation of States in 1956 was done on the basis of languages. At that time Marathwada, Vidarbha and the rest of Maharashtra came together under the banner of Bombay State, old Bombay State, and we all remember that at that time there was a great urge amongst the people of Maharashtra that they must have their own Maharashtra of Marathi speaking people. Sir, 105 people have sacrificed their lives in Bombay under the rule of Mr. Morarji Desai, who is very famous for violence though he speaks the language of non-violence and under the great devotion of Mahatmas of Maharashtra we got this Maharashtra State. We have come to Maharashtra not to disappear. We have formed Maharashtra to make it united, to make Maharashtra strong, to make Maharashtra socialist, to make Maharashtra secular, which was the dream of Chhatrapati Maharaj. That is the character and that is the enthusiasm of the people of Maharashtra. Sir, even after Six Five-Year Plans the urban development still continues but there is a large shortfall in the rural development.

You may recall Sir, that our Hon. Minister, Mr. Vasant Sathe also brought a similar type of Bill in Parliament. This is in 1969 when Mr. Vasantrao Naik was the Chief Minister, who said in the Maharashtra Assembly, now the process of removing imbalances has begun and we have to start the district planning process.

It was the conspiracy of some of the politicians to do economic injustice in respect of the development of several under-developed regions of the State. So, at that time, Mr. Vasant Sathe brought a Bill in the Lok Sabha and he criticised in Parliament that, nothing doing, we have made a provision in the Constitution in 1956 for creation of statutory boards. But unfortunately, that Bill did not come up for discussion.

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

Shri Kaldate has also given a big data how the people are suffering in Marathwada and other parts of Maharashtra and unless the demands of the people are fulfilled, they will go in for *andolan* and it will be difficult for any government to rule the State. That was the speech made by my friend, Mr. Kaldate.

Another friend, Mr. Vishvjit Singh, also participated in the debate and he categorically stated that the accord must be respected. Nagpur Accord took place before the formation of the State and it was decided that while bringing together the Marathwada, Vidarbha and Western Maharashtra, economic backwardness should be removed and as per that Nagpur Accord, there was an amendment to article 371. So, Nagpur Accord should be respected and as per that accord, Maharathwada, Vidarbha and the other parts of Maharashtra should be given economic and social justice.

My friend, Mr. Pramod Mahajan from the BJP—a new Member-said that the discussion started on the 1st of August, Tilak Jayanti Day. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak is the founding father of our freedom movement and he fought for Independence and for social and economic justice. And we started this discussion on his birthday. We want to remove the backwardness from the economically ackward parts of Maharashtra and from that point of view, we have brought this Bill in the House. Mr. Mahajan stated that 6.5 crore people of Maharashtra are demanding it. What is the obstacle then? Sir, there is a Constitutional provision and it should be implemented as early as possible.

Another friend from U.P., Mr. Ram Chandra Vikal, participated in the debate and he said that we are giving promises to act upon and not to break those promises. He criticised the functioning of democracy itself. In the process when once we are committed to create these statutory boards under provisions of article 371 (2), it is the moral responsibility of any government to act upon those promises given to the people. Then he also said that there was an amendment to the Constitution which I had suggested, and he supported it.

My friend Mr. Kulkarni spoke in Marathi. So, I would also like to answer him in Marathi.

डा० बापूकालदाते : जाधव जी आप हिन्दी में कहिए, क्योंकि मैं और शिवराज पाटिल के अलावा इस समय यहां और कोई मराठी जानने वाला नहीं है।

श्री विठठल राव माधव राव जाधव : मैं अप्पा साहब कुलकर्णी के भाषण का जवाब मराठी में ही दूंगा।

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would like to reply to the points raised by Shri Appa Saheb Kulakarni, In Marthi, because he had spoken in Marathi on this Bills. Mr. S.W. Dhabe has been fighting for the Statutory Board for Marathwada for a long time. He had been agitating on this matter vigourously in the past. I hope that he might be listening to my speech some where from visitors gallery. Even after the retirement from this House he is raising his voice against the injustice done to the labourers, farmers, agricultural labourers in Marathwada.

Appa Saheb Kulkarni said that late Yashwantrao Chavan was veteran leader of Maharashtra. He gave his able leadership to the country during the period of crisis and stood by the side of Jawahar Lal Nehru like a rock, for the sake of the defence of the country. So Maharashtra was fortunate to have the leadership of such a great leader. When the State of Maharashtra was formed in 1960, Yashwantrao Chavan had

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Marathi.

assured that the economic backwardness would be removed in the State. He also said that he was committed to achieve this goal. Mr. Kulkarni also said in his speech that economic disparity was the root cause of dissatisfaction in the backward areas and other burning problems which are yet unsolved in our country. Mr. Kulkarni, in his speech had urged the leadership of Maharashtra not to allow the growth of such problems in the State.

Mr. Kulkarni also pointed out that the border problem of Maharashtra and Karnataka was pending for a long time. Therefore, attempts should be made to solve this problem as early as possible.

Dandekar Committee had made an assessment of the backlog of development in Marathwada and Vidarbha. The Honourable Minister has said that the Government would make all efforts to give economic justice and ensure development of Marathwada in accordance with assessment of the backlog by Dandekar Committee. Another Committee must be appointed to make a full assessment of the backlog of Marathwada. He also said that the powers of the legislative Assembly would be reduced if a Statutory Board is set up. But this apprehension is baseless. The question as to whether the Chief Minister or the Governor should be the Chairman of the Board is also not very vital. The Central government can take a decision about it. Mr. Kulkarni said that some way out must be found for fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Marathwada.

Then, Sir, my friend, Mr. Naresh Pugalia, has highlighted some of the problems of this backward region. He has drawn the attention of the House to the fact that the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council have adopted unanimous resolutions demanding that the provisions contained in article 371 should be implemented in regard to the setting up of these boards. He suggested that we should speed up the matter and we should see that these boards come into existence soon.

Shri Pugalia also referred to the Nagpur agreement, which was arrived at in 1953. The people of Vidarbha have been demanding that Nagpur should be made the second capital of Maharashtra, which is already mentioned in the accord, that Nagpur will be given the status of second capital of Maharashtra. My friend, Mr. Dhabe, has been constantly demanding that the accord should be fully implemented to remove the misgivings and grievances of the people of this region. The Maharashtra leaders who were having a stronghold in Delhi have done injustice to the people of Vidarbha and Marathwada, as Mr. Pugalia has pointed out. He also referred to the speech of Mr. Vasant Sathe.

Hon. Member, Shri Mirza Irshadbaig, while supporting the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, wanted a similar amendment of the Constitution in regard to Saurashtra and Kutch in Gujarat. He highlighted the grievances of the people of Saurashtra and Kutch regions. He suggested that even distribution of expenditure should be made in the backward regions. He pointed out that the Constitutional provision is already there and that this should be implemented. He also pointed out that Gujarat has a coastline of about 1600 kms. He suggested that this should be exploited and fisheries and ocean-related industries should be developed. These are some of the points made by hon. Members who spoke on this Bill moved by me.

Now, the question is, what is wrong and why these boards have not come into existence so far when the people have been constantly demanding it? Sir, my friend, Mr. Dhabe, sub-

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav] mitted a memorandum to our hon. Prime Minister on the 2nd October, 1986, on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. In that memorandum, Mr. Dhabe pointed out an important thing. He said 'It is a well-known fact that Vidarbha is backward in both industry and agriculture. Seventy per cent of the industries are located in Bombay city and nearby areas. The districts in Vidarbha account for only 28·78 per cent of the industries in Maharashtra. Whereas, Bombay accounts for 48·91 percent of the industries; Thane-6·1 per cent, Pune-9·39 per cent; Nagpur-3·73 per cent; Akola-0·92 per cent; Amravati-0·78 per cent, Yeotmal 0·74 Per cent, Boldana 0·60 per cent. Chanderpur 0·44 per cent, Bhandara 1·15 per cent, Wardha 0·42 per cent. Similar is the story of the irrigation and roads. This is the picture. That means, in the total Vidarbha area there are 8·75 per cent of the total Maharashtra industries. In the Marathwada region there are only 3 per cent of the total number of Maharashtra industries. There is injustice on a very large scale because there are no industries, no communication, not a single metre of railway line has been added in the last 30 years in Marathwada region from where I come. In some areas there are only seasonal roads. Coming to development of raods, 91 per cent roads are there in Western Maharashtra while there are only 57 per cent in the area of Vidarbha. In the Sixth Five Year Plan document it is said that road development programme in Vidarbha area is totally neglected and very little has been done in respect of village roads. The position of employment in this area is very acute. Though they are entitled to 25 per cent of jobs in the State, on the basis of Vidarbha population hardly 2 per cent jobs are with Vidarbha people and 0·5 per cent jobs with Marathwada people. So, the right of Marathwada people.... (*Interruption*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN) : I would request, no other Member may be on his legs when another speaker is speaking.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV) : Sir, the position of employment in this area is very acute. As I have said, as per the Maharashtra population 23 per cent population is from Marathwada and the job opportunities so far given are only. ·5 per cent. The overall position of this area is a case of total neglect. More details about this are given in the memorandum to the President of India on 10-3-1984. In the memorandum submitted by Shri Dhabe to the Prime Minister on 2nd October, Gandhiji's birth anniversary, it is mentioned :

"There are also other demands such as giving status of second capital to Nagpur of Maharashtra State, holding minimum six weeks Assembly session at Nagpur, shifting of capital to Nagpur for minimum three months arising out of Nagpur Pact and subsequent assurance given on the floor of Maharashtra legislative assembly by the State Government. There is also need to give at least Rs. 50 crores for the development of Nagpur and urgency to nationalise the Empress Mill textile unit of Nagpur."

This memorandum has been submitted after our Bill has come into discussion. Likewise, in one of the functions in Nagpur Shri Vasant Sathe, when he was the Union Minister, he is still the Union Minister.

DR. BAPU KALDATE : Do you think he will not be the Minister

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : No, no, he will continue to be the Minister because he is the man who has always fought for the justice of the backward regions.

On February 3, Shri Sathe said :

"The article 371 of the Constitution has provided for improvement of certain mentioned regions of the country and a diligent application of its provisions can definitely ensure the progress of Vidarbha just as of any other region."

The Union Minister was speaking after releasing a special issue of the "enterprise annual : Vidarbha in 2000 AD" at the Institution of Engineers hall here today. Mr. Sathe asserted that no number of seminars and conventions could remove the backwardness of the region that is rich in all respects, minerals, forest wealth and crops.

All that is needed is the mobilisation of these resources and their exploitation with governmental aid, he added. The article 371 was included in the Constitution so as to restore a balance of growth among the backward and underdeveloped regions in the country, the minister said. The article was included after a careful study following the reorganisation of States in the country, he added. Recalling the past, Mr. Sathe said that while the reorganisation was under consideration he along with a delegation had nmet the erstwhile Union Home Minister, late Mr. Govind Ballabh Pant.

"And it was on his insistance that Article 371 was included in the Constitution. The Minister said that the decision was taken only after Mr. Pant had carefully studied the proposal made by him." Like this Mr. Sathe has made a statement.

Again on October 22, 1985, our hon. Prime Minister also in his answer to Mr. Dhabe when he had submitted this memorandum had said : "I have received your letter of October 1st regarding establishment of Vidarbha Development Board". When Mr. S.B. Chavan was the Home Minister and Dr. Bapu Kaldate had brought the Resolution, Mr. Chavan answered to Mr. Dhabe on July 26, 1985. He has said : "Consequent upon the adoption of a unanimous resolution by the Maharashtra State legislature in its monsoon session of 1984 asking the State Government to request the President of India to issue an order under Article 371(2) of the Constitution for establishment of three separate Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of the part of Maharashtra, the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra had conveyed to us the recommendations of the State Goverament for the issue of suitable Presidential order. Minister of Home Affairs have considered the matter in consultation with all the concerned authorities. The State Government have been requested to perpare and send to the Ministry of Home Affairs a scheme to give effect to the provisions of Art. 371(2) of the Constitution in relation to Maharashtra State so that the question of issue of the necessary Presidential order under the said constitutional provision may be processed in the Ministry".

Then after that we approached Mr. Buta Singh. Mr. Buta Singh also has written : "Kindly refer to your letter dated 23rd June, 1986 regarding the establishment of the Development Board for Vidarbha under Art. 371(2) of the Constitution. The matter is being pursued with the State Government".

So this is the Correspondence that the Maharashtra Government had with the Central Government.

Now I will come to this Parliament House itself. The then Home Minister, Mr. Prakash Chand Sethi, answered a question which had been asked by Mrs. Roda Mistry. I will read out the answer :

[श्री विट्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव]

तत्कालीन गृह मंत्री श्री सेठी द्वारा राज्य सभा में स्वायत्त विकास मंडल स्थापित करने के बारे में 3-5-84 को दिये गये आश्वासन तारांकित प्रश्न क्रमांक 145 संविधान की धारा 371(2) के अंतर्गत विदर्भ विकास मंडल स्थापित करने के बारे में विदर्भ विकास मंडल संघर्ष समिति ने मार्च, 1984 में निवेदन किया था ? यह बात सच है क्या ?

यदि यह बात सच है तो उस का विवरण क्या है और उस में क्या निर्णय लिया गया ?

सेठी जी ने उत्तर में कहा : यह बात सच है और उस में यह भी कहा : निवेदन में कहा गया है कि विदर्भ मंडल के आर्थिक विकास के बारे में सरकार ने उचित ध्यान नहीं दिया इस लिये संविधान की धारा 371(2) के अंतर्गत विदर्भ में स्वायत विकास मंडल की स्थापना की जाय के निवेदन पर शीघ्र विचार होना चाहिए । इस के लिए महाराष्ट्र सरकार को पत्र भेज कर इस बारे में उन का मत मांगा गया है । यह प्रश्न श्रीमती रोडा मिस्त्री और श्री सुरेश कलमाडी जी ने पूछा था ।

31-5-84 के पूर्व विकास मंडल स्थापित करने की विदर्भ की जनता की मांग पूरी की जायगी ? इस प्रकार का पूरक प्रश्न तत्कालीन संसद सदस्य श्री धाबे जी ने पूछा था । उस पर श्री सेठी ने निम्नलिखित आश्वासन दिया था :

विदर्भ विकास मंडल स्थापित करने के प्रश्न पर हमारी पूरी सहानुभूति है और ऐसा मंडल हम निर्माण करना चाहते हैं । किन्तु महाराष्ट्र सरकार की राय लिये बिना हम ऐसा नहीं कर सकते । बहस में भाग लेते हुए संसद सदस्य श्रीमती सरोज खापर्डे और डा० नजमा हेप्तुल्ला ने भी ऐसा मंडल शीघ्र स्थापित करने की मांग की थी ।

So, Sir, accordingly this matter has come upto this level. So now we want you to remember this. While leading the freedom movement in this country, Mahatma Gandhi said, peace of the graveyard. Like this if under this constitutional provision a statutory board is not created, the situation in Marathwada, Vidarbha and rest of the parts of Maharashtra will get worse. I would like to tell you, I would like to appeal through you to the honourable Minister, that there are very bitter feelings among the people of this region. As Gandhiji had said, it is the peace of the graveyard. During the British regime Gandhiji shattered that peace and thus opened the floodgates of turbulence. The prophet of non-violence was in reality the prophet of turbulence because his central mission was to give a big push to the regenration of Mother India. It was not to teach a new technique of fighting injustice. The technique was no more than an instrument, as Gandhiji had said.

Sir, we believe in nationalism, we believe in Indian unity. Maharashtra is one State which is the most secular. If you go and examine in Maharashtra you will find Ministers even from Southern India and Northern India. This has been the first lesson which had been taught by Chhatrapati Shivaj Maharaj, the founding father of the freedom movement in this country, and we are committed to his principles. So, from that point of view I would like to appeal to you that unless you remove the injustice it is going to be difficult because the feelings of the people are going beyond imagination. When both the Houses of Parliament and both the Houses of Maharashtra Legislature—the Assembly and Council—have unanimously adopted the resolution that the Statutory Board should be created, now there is no scope for you to say that you will take some more time. Now there is no time left. So, what I would like to appeal to the honourable Minister is this. There is a lot of correspondence with the former Home Minister. Now the former Home Minister

is the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. I do not know what his personal opinion is, but in this very House he had said that the he was neither for nor against and that he was going to examine the proposal which had been sent by the Maharashtra Government, the Maharashtra Chief Minister. Sir, where is the question of examing the proposal when it has been adopted unanimously by all the parties in both the Houses ? I do not understand it. It is not due to lack of time. It is not just to tell people to wait for some more time. For how many days, months and years are we going to wait ? We have waited for the last thirty years. The provision was made in October or November of 1956 and now it is 1986. It was made in Parliament and after 30 years we are telling the same thing to the Government of India, "Please, whatever assurance you have given through the Constitution, from Parliament you please keep that assurance." That is what our request is. So, from that point of view I would like to tell the hounourable Minister—the Home Minister is also present—I do not know what the opinion of the Chief Minister is. But there are things coming out in the newspapers that he is doubtful about the powers of the elected representatives. I do not understand it. If for 30 years the elected representatives cannot give social and economic justice to the people, what power do they want ? We do not have any right to demand any power. People have given you the mandate through the polls and you must do something for the people. You must remove the backwardness of the people. You have come as public representatives. We have come here as State representatives in the Rajya Sabha, but Members in the Lok Sabha have come as public representatives. The very fundamental principle of election of Parliament or Assembly or any election is that you must keep the grievances of the people before the Supreme House which can solve the problems of the people and if we are unable to solve the problems of the People, we have no right to remain in power. That is the thing. Now, Sir, through you I request the Chief Minister, now please respect the will of the people, please respect the feelings of the people please respect the accord which has been unanimously adopted by the Maharashtra Assembly and Maharashtra Council and don't go personally about it. We have got so many things personal. It should not be in such a way that merely because the backwardness of our people will go, our monopoly in politics or our eocnomic power will be affected. That should not be the case. One should not think in that angle. There are so many spheres where you can bring up your son or wife or daughter. It is not in the political field alone where you can plant your son or daughter. That should not be the criterion of politics. I do not agree with it. It is pure injustice. The people of Marathwada and Vidarbha are backward. It does not mean that they do not understand what you are doing while drinking milk the cat closes its eyes and thinks that nobody is watching it, but people do see it. This should not be the case. This is not the case. Sir, figures have been given. It has 25 per cent of the total population. When the right of Vidarbha is to get 25 per cent of the jobs. they are given 5 per cent of the jobs. There is 23 per cent Marathwada population. The right of the people is to get 23 per cent jobs. but they get only 5 per cent jobs. Is it not injustice ? Then, what we want, should we not demand ? That is why we are demanding a statutory board. There are disparities in the economic fields also.

What has Mr. Dandokar done ? I do not blame the hon. Minister. He should not have gone through the Dandekar Report. He has not

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

taken in to account whatever infrastructure was already existing in Bombay, Pune, the infrastucture of industries, the infrastructure of commerce, the infrastructure of trade, the infrastruture of roads, the infrastructure of railways. He has just given the figures of whatever expenditure has been done through the MRDCs after the creation of Maharashtra from 1960 to 1985. He did not take into account the industries of Tatas, Birlas, Garwares and Mafatlals. There are so many thousands of crores of industries installed in Bombay, Pune and Thane belt. Is it not progress of that region ? It has not been taken into account.

Sir, for the last 30 years we are demanding one thing, "You please convert our metre gauge into broad gauge". Not a single metre of broad gauge line has been created in the Marathwada region for the last 30 years. Why for 30 years ? Right from 1947. Even we got the freedom after one year. Our country became free in 1947, but we became free in 1948. There was the Nizam rule. The Nizam had laid one metre gauge railway line which goes from Kachiguda to Manmad. The same railway line is there. We are demanding this very House. My friends, Dr. Kaldate, Mr. Kalmadi, Mrs. Najma Haptullah, we all fought for making some provision of some amount for conversion of the metre gauge in to broad gauge. But the Railway Ministry is not very kind enough to listen to our demand.

Sir, when 1 crore persons of Marathwada and 1.5 to 2 crore persons of Vidarbha, 50 percent of the population, remain aloof from the development activities, then, what will be the feelings of the people ? All these revolutions come through poverty. Now we are in a free State. We are in a free country. It is our legitimate right that you must give our just right of economic development. So, that is what we demand.

As the hon. Minister has said, this year they have made some provision in the budget for the development of Marathwada and Vidarbha and that too on the basis of the Dandekar Report. If we are going to implement the Dandekar Report to remove the backwardness of Marathwada and Vidarbha, more backlog will be created. Because he is a mischievous and a very intelligent economist, he has created the report in such a way that Marathwada and Vidarbha will have permanent backlog. That is his method of calculation of the backlog.

I would request the hon. Home Minister to create a statutory board and to appoint some impartial commission to find out actually what the backlog of Marathwada and Vidarbha and the rest of Maharashtra is. After getting that commission's report, you please start removing the backlog. Please do that thing and direct the Maharashtra Government accordingly.

Sir, I will just humbly request you. We have been requesting. Yet it has not been done. If this problem is not taken up seriously now, what will happen? I tell you, there is a very big unrest in the people of Marathwada and Vidarbha. As Dr. Bapu Kaldate has said, people will adopt the way of *andolan*, and that is not wrong. Even today the people of Vidarbha are having *dharna* and demanding creation of a statutory board.Today it is going on, and the situation is having a lot of effect. It will be worse. So, I would request the hon. Minister. The hon. Law Minister is here. The Home Minister is here. It is a just urge for development. It is a just urge to make the nation strong. It is our just urge to make India united and strong. It is a just urge, it is a just demand of the farmers, agriculturists, the down-trodden people of this region that you should do something for that region. That is what our request is.

This is our request. And if it is not fulfilled, then there is a possibility of revolution there. Every year a large number of unemployed graduates are coming out. When these people look at others enjoying good material life and when they are unable to get a job, they get frustrated and then they become a ground for revolution. Revolutions take place when the people are hungry and there are bitter feelings. Therefore, I say we should not play with the feelings of the youths. From that point of view I request the hon. Minister through you to consider it seriously. He should not come under anybody's pressure when it is a matter for the welfare of the people. We have to make our nation strong; and in order to do that we have to make our people strong. The people's representatives should realise their real power which lies in the welfare of the people. To create a proper atmosphere for their welfare we should create a statutory board. If later on we find it is not helpful, well Parliament has got right to amend the Constitution. If we feel our objectives of development are not being achieved, we have got every right to make another provision to give economic and social justice to the people of the region. Sir, we have not got any substantial promise and a definite time limit for setting up the board. So, with a very heavy heart I request the hon. Home Minister, Shri Chintamani Panigrahi, who is a very experienced person, and also the Law Minister, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj, who is a very good friend of mine and who has got sympathies for the welfare of the poor, to take a lead for the creation of the statutory board. With these few words and with a heavy heart I withdraw my Bill.

डा० बापू कालदाते : वह आखिरी बार होगा विदड्रा करने का मामला।

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : I am speaking from the Treasury bench. If I had been in the Opposition, I would not have withdrawn it.

DR. BAPU KALDATE : But I am supporting you.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I never want to come to that side, but this is just to show my feelings are very bitter about this. I am sure as our young Prime Minister has taken many decisions for the welfare of the nation and as our demand is a very small one as compared to others things that he has done, he will take a step in this direction also. If there are some Shukracharyas who are coming in the way, please remove them and take a decision for the welfare of the people and do not come under anybody's influence whether he is a Chief Minister or a Union Minister or a heavyweight or a light-weight. You please respect the wishes of the people and the people will respect you. Our Congress Party under Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi has always faught..

DR. BAPU KALDATE: What about Rajiv Gandhi?

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I am appealing to Rajiv Gandhi. Please remove the feelings of disparity that is existing in the minds of the people of the Marathwada and Vidarbha region. With these words I withdraw this Bill.

I again beg for excuse if I have hurt anybody's feelings, but I have expressed the feelings of the people of the Marathwada and Vidarbha region. I say please do what is there in the provisions of the Constitution and that there should be a time-bound programme for this.

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.